

REMARKS**A. The Rejection of the Claims and Applicant's Response**

The original claims were rejected as being either anticipated by or obvious in view of Hirai (US6,059,601). In addition, various claims were objected to or rejected based upon certain informalities and lack of antecedent basis for various terms. Further, because of certain recitations in the claims, objections were also made to the drawings. See Office Action at pp. 2-4.

By this response, the original claims have been cancelled and new claims 40-44 have been submitted. The new claims define the subject invention as being an electrical connector with a molded housing receiving a stamped insert having the contacts and wherein a removable tab is attached to the insert. Hirai shows a connector wherein contacts are integrally connected to a carrier strip. The carrier strip (11) can be separated from the contacts (3) by cutting along line (12). The claims further specify that a side extension is formed on each side of each of the contacts, and that each side extension is anchored within the molded plastic housing. Hirai, and each of the other cited references, fails to disclose or suggest such a feature. Accordingly, claims 40-44 cannot be either anticipated or rendered obvious by Hirai or any of the other cited references.

FEB. 28. 2003 4:56PM

MEDTRONIC LAW DEPT

NO. 4734 P. 7/7

B. Conclusion

Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references, either singly or in combination, and that all claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant requests that a notice of allowance be issued in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb 28, 2003

By:


Girma Wolde-Michael
Reg. No. 36,724
Telephone: (763) 514-6402
Fax: (763) 505-2530



27581

FAX RECEIVED

FEB 28 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800